

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

IO-11 SAM-01 ACDA-05 AID-05 EUR-12 /097 W

----- 101696

R 221600Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3685

INFO AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY RABAT

C O N F I D E N T I A L ALGIERS 0143

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MOPS, AG, MO, SS

SUBJ: SAHARA: ALLEGED MOROCCAN USE OF NAPALM

REF ALGIERS 0134

1. POLISARIO AND ALGERIAN MEDIA ARE MAKING MUCH OF ALLEGED MOROCCAN AIR ATTACKS ON REFUGEE CAMPS AND HAVE CHARGED MOROCCAN AIR FORCE WITH USING NAPALM, SOURCED TO FRENCH, IN THESE OPERATIONS. ALGERIAN PRESS SERVICE REPROT CARRIED IN PRESS JAN. 22 CLAIMS THAT ON JAN. 18 AND 19 MOROCCAN AIR FORCE ATTACKED CAMPS AT TIFARITI, BIR LAHLOU AND TARNIT, RESPECTIVELY 80, 150, AND 210 KILOMETERS FROM SMARA, AND CAUSED NUMEROUS CASUALTIES AMONG CAMPS' POPULATIONS, PARTICULARLY WOMEN AND CHILDREN. IN INTERVIEW JAN. 21, POLISARIO SPOKESMAN AHMED OULD BABA MISKE SAID THAT USE OF MOROCCAN AIR POWER IN SAHARA HAD INCREASED GREATLY IN PAST FEW DAYS AND THAT NAPALM HAD BEEN USED AGAINST SAHRAOUIs SEEKING TO LEAVE DAKHLA AND ARGOUB IN SOUTHEAST AS WELL AS IN NORTHERN SAHARA. MISKE ASSERTED THAT MAN AND BEAST WERE SUBJECT TO ATTACKS AND THAT WATER SYSTEMS HAVE BECOME MILITARY OBJECTIVES AS WELL.

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2. PRESS ALSO ASSERTS THAT MOROCCAN TANKS BOMBARDED

REFUGEE CAMPS NORTH OF TIFARITI WITH 75 MM SHELLS.

3. COMMENT: WHILE WE CONTINUE TREAT POLISAIRO COMMUNIQUE WITH RESERVE, WE FIND THERE IS SOME SUBSTANCE TO THEM MORE OFTEN THAN NOT. IF THERE IS TRUTH IN REPORTS, ALGERIANS MAY BE ABLE TO EXPLOIT THEM THROUGH SOME SORT OF VISUAL MEDIA COVERAGE. ALGERIAN TV CREW HAS RECENTLY DONE FILMING IN MAHBES AND MIGHT BE ABLE IN NEAR FUTURE TO GET SOME "ON-THE-SCENE" REPORTING FROM CAMPS SUBSTANTIATING POLISARIO CLAIM THAT MOROCCANS OUT TO EXTERMINATE SAHRAOUI PEOPLE. PICTURES OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN WITH MAPALM BURNS, ESPECIALLY IF NAPALM DELIVERED BY F-5'S WE HAVE PROVIDED MOROCCANS, UNLIKELY DO US MUCH GOOD LOCALLY OR IN INTERNATIONAL MEDIA.

5. IN LIGHT OF FOREGOING, REITERATE REQUEST IN REFTTEL FOR BACKGROUND CONCERNING MOROCCAN AIR STRIKES IN SAHARA AND, IN PARTICULAR, POSSIBILITY OF THEIR HAVING USED NAPALM THERE.  
PARKER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** NAPALM, ALLEGATIONS, AIR COMBAT OPERATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 22 JAN 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** SmithRJ  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976ALGIER00143  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
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**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 ALGIERS 134  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** SmithRJ  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 03 JUN 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <03 JUN 2004 by buchant0>; APPROVED <28 SEP 2004 by SmithRJ>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SAHARA: ALLEGED MOROCCAN USE OF NAPALM  
**TAGS:** PFOR, MOPS, AG, MO, SS  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006